

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 0951

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORC, MARR, MOPS, PEPR, PGOV, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: SIILASVUO ON UNIFIL

REF: (A) STATE 83820, (B) STATE 83982, (C) DAMASCUS 1788

SUMMARY: SIILASVUO'S MOOD MUCH IMPROVED. OUR PROMPT
RESPONSE TO HIS REQUESTS , ARRIVAL OF NORWEGIANS, AND CURRENT
CALM ON THE GROUND HAVE ALL HAD POSITIVE EFFECT. HE WAS
MOST APPRECIATIVE OF BRIEFING ON OUR MARCH 30 CONVER-
SATION WITH ASSAD AND IS WILLING TO RETURN TO DAMASCUS
WHEN HE HAS SOMETHING DEFINITE CONCERNING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.
END SUMMARY

1. HAD GOOD TALK WITH SIILASVUO A.M. APRIL 1. HE WAS
CLEARLY GRATIFIED AT OUR PROMPT RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST
FOR SUPPORT ON ADDITIONAL FRENCH AND NORWEGIAN TROOPS,

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ACCELERATION OF NEPALESE ARRIVAL, AND WILLINGNESS SUPPORT
APPROACHES TO NEW PROSPECTIVE CONTRIBUTORS.

2. ARRIVAL OF NORWEGIANS HAS HAD BENEFICIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL
EFFECT. 61 NORWEGIANS ARE ALREADY IN THE AREA AND THE
MAIN BODY OF 315 IS ARRIVING TODAY TO BE FOLLOWED BY
FURTHER 45. HE WILL MOVE THEM PROMPTLY THROUGH METULLA/

MARJAYOUN IN THE DIRECTION OF THE PRESENT SWEDISH UNITS
IN THE VICINITY OF THE Khardala Bridge. ASAP Swedes
will then be repositioned in the center.

3. Situation on the ground. As of 0900 local April 1,
situation in South Lebanon was calm, including Tyre area.
Siilasvuo confided there had been sporadic fire at Unifil
barracks by undisciplined Palestinian elements in Tyre
but this seems to have ceased for the time being.

4. I briefed Siilasvuo fully on Ambassador's Murphy's
March 30 talk with Assad. He fully shares our assessment
of this conversation (para three, State 83982), and is not
discouraged. (Khaddam had been much more negative to him on
ADF advance to Litani.) Siilasvuo found Ambassador Murphy's
phraseology concerning our hope Syria would think about
restoring stability to the "no man's land" between the
Zahrani and the Litani to be especially felicitous. He
picked up immediately Assad's comment about the application
of the existing agreements between GOL and the Palestinians.
Siilasvuo said someone had remarked that under the
Shtaura agreement, Palestinians should not be in Tyre.
In reply to his query, I said this post did not have a
copy of the relevant provisions of the Shtaura agreement
but I would request them from the Department immediately.
I also promised to share our analysis of the Cairo and
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the Shtaura agreements when prepared (para two, State
83982).

5. Tyre. On Assad's professed ignorance of Tyre,
Siilasvuo wondered if Khaddam had briefed him fully on
his March 25 presentation. I called attention to use
of "professed". Siilasvuo seemed to accept philosophically
Assad's observation he assumed the UN could work out an
understanding with the Palestinians in Tyre.

6. When I mentioned a possible return trip to Damascus,
Siilasvuo indicated he was fully prepared to do so just
as soon as he had something definite in the way of an
Israeli withdrawal schedule.

7. Siilasvuo was also pleased to hear we would be press-
ing Israelis on a tentative withdrawal schedule. In his
previous meeting with Gur, latter had remarked "withdrawal
is not as fast as I had hoped." He particularly welcomed
Gur's March 31 interview in the "Jerusalem Post" to the
effect PLO would have to be a party to a South Lebanon
settlement in addition to possible Syrian move to Litani.

8. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT POSITIVE REPLY TO
SIILASVUO'S REQUEST HAS OBVIOUSLY HAD A SALUTARY EFFECT.
HE IS ALSO MOST APPRECIATIVE OF OUR VIGOROUS CONTINUING
EFFORTS WITH BOUTROS, SARKIS AND KHOURY. REQUEST
DEPARTMENT SEND US TEXT OF SHTAURA AGREEMENT ASAP.

9. DEPARTMENT REPEAT OTHER ADDRESSEES AS DESIRED.
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